(c) Total number of heart patients registered and awaiting for open heart surgery up to June, 2003 is 2326.

SAIL profits

3310. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India has earned profit during the year 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the figure of profit for this year;

(c) the loss suffered during the year 2001-2002; and

(d) other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) incurred a net loss of Rs. 1707 crores in the year 2001-2002. The gross margin and cash loss during 2001-2002 was Rs. 1011 crores and Rs. 551 crores respectively. The net loss was reduced to Rs. 316 crores (before tax) during 2002–2003, registering an improvement of 82% over the previous year (2001–02).

Setting up of synthetic rutile plant in Kerala

3311. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation proposes to set up Synthetic Rutile Plant at Chavara in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of the project along-with the details of the estimated investment;

(c) the details of the steps taken so far for setting up the plant; and

(d) the expected time by which this plant will become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) to (d) National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC), Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), and Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (KSIDC), have entered into an agreement to consider the possibility of setting up a Synthetic Rutile Plant at Chavara based on ilmenite produced by IREL. Accordingly a market survey and technological appraisal is currently being conducted. Details of the project along with the expected investment and time schedule would be firmed up after the results of the market survey and technology appraisal have been evaluated.

Demand of steel in States

†3312. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the demand of steel in various States of the country including Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the arrangements made for its supply alongwith the names of the States having maximum demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) State-wise demand figures are not maintained in the Ministry. As per extant policy, the requirements of steel materials of SSI units in a State are routed through their respective Small Scale Industries Corporations (SSICs). The Ministry of Steel makes section/size wise allocation of steel materials for supply against their projected demand based on the availability from Main Producers. SSIC's of Chandigarh, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Goa accounted for the maximum demand of steel vis-a-vis other states in the country.

Accidents at VSP

†3313. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the industrial accidents occured in the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant during the last three years alongwith the number of people died in these accidents;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.